

31 May 2016

I am pleased to have the opportunity to respond to the recommendations made in your draft report on Intellectual Property Arrangements, which was released on 29 April 2016.

My name is Amanda Francey and I am an illustrator and an aspiring author. I have three picture books published with Australian publishers and currently undertaking a fourth. I am writing my response out of great concern for my future as an illustrator and the future of the Australian book industry.

The recommendation to reduce the **term of copyright** to 15-25 years as proposed in your report is very disturbing to me as an illustrator. I have the right to retain ownership of my work in the same way that any individual may maintain ownership of any other business or investment that they have built. The proposed changes are unfair to the creators. I invest months, sometimes years, of unpaid time into my work and rely on future revenue which may only begin to pay itself off over many decades.

Your draft report proposes a change to Australia's **parallel importation rules** for books. I believe, however, that the current system has sufficient safety nets in place to protect the interests of the consumer, while still allowing myself and my fellow authors/illustrators to retain control of their rights and income and enjoy a level playing field with our fellow authors/illustrators in the UK and USA.

Territorial copyright helps publishers manage risk and support the creation of new Australian stories. Without these rules, as an illustrator, I would lose income and the support of a vibrant local publishing industry.

Australian law currently sets out a series of clear exceptions to copyright restrictions under "fair dealing". This is a fair arrangement that works well for all parties, including authors and illustrators. If this were to change to the American-style system of **fair use**, however, I would not only lose valuable income, but would also have to pay the litigation costs if I discovered free copying that I considered to be unfair usage. This would be beyond my means and beyond the means of most authors and illustrators.

I, along with thousands of Australian authors and illustrators, am deeply concerned that these changes will affect my ability to continue to illustrate, write, earn a living and find a publisher. I respectfully ask that you reconsider your position.

Kind regards,

Amanda Francey